

Appendix
(E.E.E.)

31st July.

quired for the subordinate books were multitudinous and intricate, and required untiring industry and the closest attention on the part of the accountants.

The numerous checks to which the whole work has been subjected, primarily as a protection against discrepancies and errors, and subsequently for the detection of those which in the ordinary course of accounts were to be expected, have placed the ultimate accuracy of the footings of the Ledgers beyond all doubt.

As it was found that the system of annual balances, instituted at the commencement, and carried out until the end of the first period, say for twelve and a half years, had now become inexpedient from the great increase in the number of accounts in existence, and the length of time required for the transcriptions and additions, the precautionary checkings for the avoidance of errors, and subsequent tedious and harrassing searchings for trivial discrepancies, added to the fact that the College accounts for each year were interlocked with those of other years, antecedent or following, so that the exhibition of them in separate annual periods could not be regarded as a reliable exposition of the affairs of the institution for the particular portion of time which they purported to represent, the Commissioners, with a view to the more early completion of their inquiry, already protracted beyond their expectations, and from the threatening aspect of the mass of confusion yet to be analysed and reduced to proper order, likely to extend itself to a period which they almost dreaded to contemplate, decided upon embracing the whole of the second period, extending from Col. Wells' retirement to the 1st January, 1850, nearly ten and a half years, in one general account, to be completed in one balance; intending to append to it, for the information of the University authorities, a general summary, which, for all purposes of fiscal administration, would meet their requirements.

It is with much regret that the Commissioners, in giving the present detail of the general course of their proceedings, find themselves called upon to complain of the serious obstructions cast in their way by the University Senate, on two occasions, by which not only the progress of the inquiry has been retarded, but the very continuance and completion of it rendered almost impracticable.

From an examination of the Statute of appointment, it will be perceived that no provision was therein made for the defraying of the current expenditure of the Commission. Whether this defect in the Statute was the result of oversight, or proceeded from an imperfect apprehension of the extent and character of the labour devolved upon the Commissioners, is now unimportant to decide. If it was assignable to the latter cause, which is the most reasonable conjecture, it can be regarded only as proof of the imperfect knowledge which the Council had of the real state of the accounts; and so far from this misapprehension as to the formidable extent of the work, and consequent large expenditure in its completion, being entitled to consideration as a legitimate reason for the discontinuance of the inquiry, the Commissioners have regarded it as a most conclusive proof of the very contrary.

The College Council having become aware that the Commissioners could not proceed with their inquiry without the assistance of competent accountants, who could not be expected to wait for their pay till the close of the work, ordered advances of

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cash to be made by the Bursar, from time to time, to meet the current requirements of the Commission. No difficulty was experienced by the Commissioners on this head until sometime after the coming into action of the new University Act, by the provisions of which the College Council was abolished, and a University Senate appointed to take its place. In April, 1850, the Senate, for reasons not explained to the Commissioners, forbade any further payments to be made; and the clerks of the Commission were left without provision until the 7th August following; the accustomed monthly drafts of the Chairman on the Bursar being regularly declined when presented for payment.

The Senate at length changed their course; and the Commissioners were once more enabled to proceed in their labours, without the apprehension of being deprived of the valuable services of their clerks, whose experience in the general work of the accounts rendered their retention both desirable and profitable.

The Commissioners feeling exceedingly desirous to bring the inquiry to the earliest possible termination, pressed forward the work with all possible urgency. The office hours, which had been throughout two hours daily longer than those kept in the University office, or any other public office in Toronto, were increased yet another hour, and every branch of the work was closely superintended. In short, it was impossible for the Commissioners to drive the work forward faster; and they were often almost ashamed of the severity with which they kept their hard-worked subordinates to their heavy labour. In the mean time they were called upon for information as to the probable further duration of the inquiry, and for statements as to various matters of account and fiscal consideration, to which applications they gave prompt attention. The probable further continuance of the Commission was a matter of uncertainty; consequently the inquiry of the Senate on this head was replied to according to the best apprehension which the Commissioners were able to form upon it. The causes of the protraction of the work have already been alluded to: they were well known to several members of the Senate, and were above the control of the Commissioners, no less than they had been beyond their expectations. The fiscal statements required related to the comparative income and expenditure of the University, and consisted of two returns: one showing the aggregate expenditure and income from July, 1839, to the end of 1849; the other shewing the collected income for the respective years 1848 and 1849. The former was prepared in September, 1850, at the request of the Chancellor, conveyed through the Revd. Professor Beaven, who desired to have the information submitted to the Board of Visitation for their guidance in certain matters under consideration; but though Professor Beaven was duly apprized of its completion, within a few days after making the request, the return remained for many weeks uncalled for by the Board of Visitation. The footings of this Return shewed the aggregate expenditure, for the period mentioned, to have exceeded the aggregate income by £10,140 19s. 11d. The second Return, furnished in December, 1850, shewed the excess of expenditure over income to have been, in 1848, £2,942 8s. 6d.; and in 1849, £2,955 11s. 9d.

The Commissioners consider themselves called upon to state the above facts, in order to shew that the University authorities were aware of the advanced state of their work; for it would not have been possible to furnish the returns referred to, had